

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 309051

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GE, US, XA

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT WITH SED POLITBUREAU MEMBER

REF.: BERLIN 9357

1. FOLLOWING IS UPDATED INFORMATION ON NAMIBIA AND
RHODESIA WHICH YOU CAN DRAW ON IN YOUR TALK WITH LAMBERZ.

2. NAMIBIA. DURING LATE NOVEMBER AND EARLY DECEMBER, THE
FIVE-NATION CONTACT GROUP VISITED A NUMBER OF AFRICAN
CAPITALS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA. THE GROUP MET WITH
GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN DAR ES SALAAM, MAPUTO, LUSAKA,
LUANDA (ITS FIRST VISIT TO ANGOLA), GABORONE, LAGOS, AND
PRETORIA. THE FIVE CONFERRED WITH SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM
NUJOMA IN LUSAKA BEFORE AND AFTER THEIR VISIT TO SOUTH
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AFRICA.

THERE ARE STILL IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SWAPO AND
THE SOUTH AFRICANS, PRIMARILY OVER THE KEY ISSUE OF SOUTH
AFRICAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM NAMIBIA. SWAPO CONTINUES TO
INSIST THAT ALL SAG TROOPS BE REMOVED PRIOR TO THE ELEC-
TION CAMPAIGN WHILE THE SAG, ALTHOUGH AGREEING TO UN

MONITORING OF ITS FORCES, WISHES TO MAINTAIN A SIZEABLE NUMBER IN NAMIBIA AT LEAST UNTIL A NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT IS FORMED.

IN AN EFFORT TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT, THE CONTACT GROUP IS INVITING SWAPO AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO PROXIMITY TALKS TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK BEGINNING JANUARY 17.(LAST SENTENCE IS FYI.)

3. RHODESIA. WE CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN EFFORTS DESIGNED TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS. WE DO NOT VIEW MR. SMITH'S CURRENT ATTEMPT TO AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS WARRANTING OUR SUPPORT OR LIKELY TO SUCCEED. TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND LASTING, A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT MUST NOT, BY DEFINITION, BE STRUCTURED TO OPERATE AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF, OR EXCLUDE ONE OR MORE IMPORTANT NATIONALIST GROUPINGS.

THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS MUST INCLUDE AN ELECTORAL PROCESS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS BEING FAIRLY CONDUCTED IN WHICH ALL PARTIES CAMPAIGN CONFIDENTLY WITHOUT FEAR OF RETRIBUTION OR INTIMIDATION. THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ARE PREDICATED UPON SUCH A TEST OF THE VOTERS' WILL.

WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY RECENT STATEMENTS FROM BOTH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (MAPUTO, DECEMBER 8) AND THE FRONT LINE
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PRESIDENTS (BEIRA, DECEMBER 18) WHICH EXPRESS A WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH ON THE BASIS OF ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR WE SHALL SEE INCREASED DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN PURSUIT OF OUR SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS. (FYI ONLY - MOZAMBICANS HAVE INVITED LORD CARVER TO MAPUTO FOR CONSULTATIONS EARLY IN JANUARY, OWEN HAS INVITED NKOMO AND MUGABE TO MEET WITH HIM AND ANDY YOUNG AFTER MID-JANUARY.) WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO ATTAIN AN INDEPENDENT, MAJORITY-RULED ZIMBABWE, WITH AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT DURING 1978. VANCE

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